United Nations A/C.2/57/SR.35

General Assembly
Fifty-seventh session

Official Records

Distr.: General
6 June 2005
English
Original: Spanish

Second Committee

Summary record of the 35th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 14 November 2002, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Suazo ..... (Honduras)
later: Mr. Kára (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Czech Republic)

Contents

Agenda item 91: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (*continued*)

Agenda item 87: Environment and sustainable development (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (*continued*)

Agenda item 85: Sectoral policy questions

(b) Business and development

Agenda item 87: Environment and sustainable development (*continued*)

(c) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

02-69588 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 91: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (*continued*)

Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.34

1. **The Chairman**, after informing the Committee that Brunei Darussalam, Mauritania and Pakistan had joined the list of sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.34, said that no consensus had been reached during informal consultations on that draft resolution.

2. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to put the draft resolution to a vote.

3. *It was so decided.*

4. **Mr. Nadai** (Israel), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that unlike other resolutions drafted by the Committee in the preceding two months, which called for steps to make the world a better and safer place, draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.34 contributed nothing to the Committee's consideration of global issues, nor did it help Israelis and Palestinians move towards the achievement of a lasting peace agreement. It was regrettable that the substantive debate in the Committee was once again being used as a platform from which to level accusations against Israel and to adopt a draft resolution which was completely one-sided, inaccurate and, ultimately, counter-productive.

5. The draft resolution had nothing to do with the issues addressed by the Committee and would only further politicize its work. The people of the Middle East had suffered too much for too long. Israel remained committed to peace and reconciliation with its neighbours, even in the face of unrelenting terrorism, including the recent attack at Kibbutz Metzer by a member of the Fatah movement. Peace would only be achieved when both sides could sit down face to face in an atmosphere free from terrorism. Once calm had been restored negotiations could begin once again and all issues, including natural resources, could be discussed.

6. The draft resolution before the Committee would do nothing to contribute to that objective, would not help foster an atmosphere free from violence and terrorism and would not encourage the Palestinians to achieve their objectives through dialogue rather than through terrorism. The draft resolution was undoubtedly biased and counterproductive for the peace process. As it had in years past, his delegation would vote against the draft resolution and urged other delegations to do likewise.

7. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Comoros, Congo, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Morocco, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), United States of America.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Papua New Guinea.

8. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.34 was adopted by 124 votes to 4, with 2 abstentions.*

9. **Mr. Jorgensen** (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe (Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia), the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the countries of the European Free Trade Association that formed part of the European Economic Area (Iceland and Norway), said that the European Union had voted in favour of the draft resolution because it believed that the natural resources of any territory seized by force should not be used inappropriately or illegally by the occupying Power.

10. Nevertheless, it wished to clarify the European Union's interpretation of certain aspects of the draft resolution. The European Union reaffirmed that the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 applied to the Occupied Territories and that any infringement of the rights of the Palestinian people was illegal under the terms of that Convention. It believed, however, that the issues referred to in the draft resolution should be dealt with in the framework of the Middle East peace process. The European Union remained committed, in close cooperation with its partners in the Quartet and in the Arab world, to assisting the parties in their efforts to find a final settlement to the Middle East conflict. The draft resolution that had just been adopted should not be interpreted as prejudicial to the outcome of those negotiations.

11. **Mr. Iwai** (Japan) said that he had voted in favour of the draft resolution because he believed that natural resources acquired by force should not be used in an illegal or inappropriate manner by the occupying Power. Two years after the cycle of violence between Israelis and Palestinians had begun, the conflict continued unabated and there were few signs of improvement. His delegation, profoundly concerned by the suffering of the Palestinians on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, exhorted Israelis and Palestinians to put an end to that cycle of violence. His delegation shared the hope, expressed in paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, that the issue would be dealt with in the framework of the final status negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis. Lastly, he said his delegation believed that the draft resolution should not prejudice the outcome of the final status negotiations.

12. **Ms. Barghouti** (Observer for Palestine) expressed her gratitude to the sponsors of the draft resolution and to the States that had voted in favour. Its adoption demonstrated the overwhelming support of the international community for the rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan to their natural resources and its determination to continue to support the Palestinian people in their struggle for freedom and independence. With respect to the recent suicide attack mentioned by the representative of Israel, it was well known that the Palestinian Authority had repeatedly condemned attacks against the civilian population and expressed regret about the loss of civilian lives. At the same time, however, it was necessary to distinguish between the suicide attacks committed in Israel and the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The Palestinian people had the right to resist the occupation and to defend themselves against Israeli aggression and military attacks. Resistance was the legitimate right of any subjugated and occupied people and should never be confused with terrorist attacks. President Arafat had denounced the suicide attack referred to by the representative of Israel, and had promised to carry out an investigation. She hoped that the Government of Israel would do the same with respect to the killing of Palestinians and the destruction it had wreaked, as well as with respect to the war crimes it had committed against the Palestinian people, which had left 2,000 people dead, among them 500 children, and 35,000 others wounded, among them 10,000 children.

13. **Mr. Nakhari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the adoption of the draft resolution demonstrated once again that the international community's repudiation of the inhumane practices of the Israelis, sent a clear message to Israel that it must abide by the Fourth Geneva Convention and abstain from exploiting the resources of the occupied territories, and confirmed that the occupation of those territories was illegal. The Syrian Arab Republic thanked all the countries that had voted in favour of the draft resolution. Referring to the question of terrorism, he said that a definitive solution to that problem could only be attained in an environment that was free of violence. However, ever since its foundation, and even before that, the State of Israel had been based on violence, as attested by the

massacre of Deir Yasin and the many other atrocities it had committed against the Palestinian people. The history of Israel was rife with acts of that nature, committed by the State itself or by Israeli settlers, which far outdid history's worst acts of barbarism. The Syrian Arab Republic was convinced that the appeal just launched by the international community would be heard even by States that usually ignored such resolutions.

14. **Mr. Nadai** (Israel) said that the most recent terrorist attack had not been a suicide attack, but rather the work of one individual who had entered a kibbutz that usually cooperated with its Arab neighbours and had killed a woman and her two children. In his view, statements of the kind just delivered did a disservice to the Palestinian people. The best thing the Palestinian Authority could do to improve the lives of its people was to bring a halt once and for all to the destructive campaign of violence and terrorism, and resume negotiations for a peace agreement with Israel.

15. **Mr. Shikhaliyev** (Azerbaijan), **Ms. Vargas** (Colombia), **Mr. Lenagala** (Sri Lanka) and **Mr. Mumbey-Wafula** (Uganda) said that, had they been present, they would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

Agenda item 87: Environment and sustainable development (*continued*) (A/57/25, A/57/132, A/57/84-S/2002/645, A/57/202, A/57/329, A/57/331, A/57/343, A/57/350, A/57/422-S/2002/1064)

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (*continued*) (A/57/3 (Parts I and II), A/57/444, A/57/460, A/57/497 and A/CONF.199/20)

16. **Mr. Nadai** (Israel) said that no effort should be spared in repairing the serious damage to the global environment and that, in that respect, the World Summit on Sustainable Development had been a turning point, since it had drawn the world's attention to the pressing environmental problems facing humankind. In order to address those problems, it was essential that Governments should, in addition to improving the living conditions of their citizens, adopt measures to protect their natural resources and local environment in order to achieve sustainable development, promote educational programmes on sustainable development and environmental protection and combat poverty, since populations which were able to satisfy their basic needs were better equipped to protect the environment.

17. Sustainable development, particularly in the agricultural sector, would contribute towards improving living conditions in developing countries and eradicating poverty. In that context, and within the framework of the Mashav programme, Israel had assisted many developing countries by providing guidance and training, sending experts to areas in need of assistance and setting up model farms. Israel intended to extend the scope of those activities, from which, to date, about 140 countries had benefited. Likewise, Israel wished to strengthen its cooperation with international aid agencies in order to increase aid to developing countries. Within the framework of the Mashav programme, Israel, in collaboration with a number of development agencies, was working to improve and strengthen the technical capacities and knowledge of local populations, focusing on the sectors in which it had comparative advantages, through training and teaching, in the hope of making a significant contribution to global initiatives designed to promote sustainable development in developing countries.

18. **Mr. Savchuk** (Ukraine) noted with appreciation that the recent World Summit on Sustainable Development had adopted a sustainable development strategy and a series of implementation measures. The agreements reached in Johannesburg on a wide range of sustainable development issues were an important complement to the goals and principles embodied in the Millennium Declaration, Agenda 21 and the outcomes of other major United Nations conferences and summits.

19. His delegation welcomed the reflection in the Plan of Implementation of the international community's commitment to assist countries with economies in transition in their efforts to secure sustainable development. Constructive assistance could be provided by developing innovative mechanisms to address the debt problems of the developing and transition countries. One of those mechanisms, included in the Plan of Implementation on the proposal of the President of Ukraine, was debt-for-sustainable-development swaps. That measure could have a positive influence on the rates of economic growth and environmental development of nations. He also welcomed the new partnerships that had emerged at

Johannesburg, which demonstrated that sustainable development was increasingly viewed as a joint responsibility. Those initiatives would serve as a catalyst for the mobilization of Governments, the private sector and civil society.

20. The Plan of Implementation clearly recognized that States had the primary responsibility for their own development and that sound economic, social and environmental policies were the basis for sustainable development. Ukraine attached primary importance to the implementation of its own sustainable development policy. It had prepared a policy concerning the transition to sustainable development, designed to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources, the structural and technological modernization of production and the broader involvement of business and civil society in policy formulation and decision-making.

21. Considerable progress had been made in the formulation of the regulatory frameworks necessary to promote sustainable development and, despite the economic challenges currently facing the country, efforts to protect and rehabilitate the environment had been stepped up. The legal and methodological basis for natural resource management, environmental protection and nuclear safety was being developed. The adoption by the Ukrainian Parliament of policy directions on environmental protection, use of natural resources and environmental safety had completed the process of developing the basic elements of a national environmental policy which met domestic needs and conformed to international requirements. That policy had already yielded some positive results, such as the reduction by 50 per cent of greenhouse emissions in comparison with 1990. The transition process had been hindered by the ongoing consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. In that connection, the assistance of Governments and international organizations had been invaluable in mitigating the effects of the disaster. The new United Nations strategy for the recovery of Chernobyl would contribute towards optimizing the response of the international community, but its success depended on the assistance of the international donor community in the implementation of projects.

22. Ukraine had recently ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and was willing to implement the relevant mechanisms in order to make a contribution to technology transfer and to take part in the system of information exchange on living modified organisms. It had also ratified the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

23. In view of the growing importance of environmental cooperation at the regional level in the promotion of sustainable development, the role of the regional commissions should be strengthened. In that connection, his Government was doing its utmost to ensure the effective preparation of the Fifth Ministerial Conference, "Environment in Europe", to be held in Kyiv in 2003. The Conference would help to further consolidate the pan-European process and develop the regional environmental strategy. It was to be hoped that the Economic Commission for Europe and all relevant countries would seize the opportunity to promote the implementation of the outcome of Johannesburg in the ECE region. It was essential to strengthen the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development in follow-up to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and to enhance cooperation between it and other United Nations organizations involved in sustainable development, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme.

24. *Mr. Kára (Czech Republic) took the Chair.*

25. **Mr. Kamyab** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his delegation supported the statement made by the representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The World Summit on Sustainable Development had reaffirmed the Rio principles and emphasized the validity of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities in the implementation of the sustainable development agenda. It had recognized multilateralism, along with the centrality of the United Nations, respect for cultural diversity and the promotion of dialogue among people and civilizations as the requirements for sustainable development, and had made progress in addressing political, economic, environmental and social issues in a more holistic manner and in defining the role of the various organizations, agencies, bodies, programmes and funds within and outside the United Nations system, particularly in the area of implementation. For the first time, sectoral and cross-sectoral issues such as mining, mountains and globalization had been addressed, and there had been different perspectives on some areas such as poverty eradication, sustainable production and consumption patterns, desertification, globalization and means of implementation. When judging the success of the World Summit, it must be borne in mind that its outcome was not a substitute for Agenda 21, but a

commitment to its full implementation under the Plan of Implementation. In that respect, the agreements on means of implementation had not been encouraging or satisfactory. The establishment of the world solidarity fund, recognition of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as a financial mechanism for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the successful replenishment of GEF with a view to financing energy projects in developing countries were necessary initiatives, but were not sufficient to meet the challenges ahead.

26. At its current session, the Committee should adopt a procedural resolution which endorsed the outcome of the World Summit, particularly its Plan of Implementation and Political Declaration, and indicated the important task for the next session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, namely consideration and adoption of its programme of work. Furthermore, in the context of the ongoing process of United Nations reform, the Secretary-General should take into full account the Plan of Implementation and, in particular, chapter 10 on institutional frameworks for sustainable development, which had brought about changes in the work of agencies, funds, programmes, regional commissions and inter-agency coordination mechanisms of the United Nations system.

27. There was a fundamental link between the discussion on United Nations reform, the discussion on the integrated and coordinated follow-up of the major United Nations conferences and the debate on the programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Commission, as the high-level body responsible for following up the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit, could not discuss its programme of work in isolation. The mandates set out in General Assembly resolution 49/191 must be addressed in a balanced manner, and that should be one of the guiding principles in planning the Commission's programme of work; in that respect, priority must be given to means of implementation. As the body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit, the Commission should benefit from the assistance and active participation of all organizations, agencies, programmes, funds and regional commissions as well as GEF, in accordance with the Plan of Implementation. The Commission's session should provide an opportunity for those bodies to inform Member States of the progress made in implementation. The Plan of Implementation should be the only framework for the Commission's work. The Commission's function, as a focal point for the discussion of partnerships, should be to agree on its framework, modalities and criteria and identify partnerships that promoted sustainable development.

28. **Ms. Chenoweth** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) said that the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, had succeeded in converting basic principles agreed upon in Agenda 21 into attainable targets with timetables and commitments. The Plan of Implementation detailed actions to fight hunger and poverty and to protect the environment in key priority areas within the mandate of FAO. FAO had the responsibility to assist in the implementation of the Johannesburg commitments, as well as the partnerships launched by Governments, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. It had provided the World Summit with reports assessing progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on the four chapters of Agenda 21 for which it was the task manager and on the other five chapters for which it was a major partner and had undertaken a review of its technical assistance to Member States in the implementation of Agenda 21.

29. The Plan of Implementation aimed to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's population that lived on less than one dollar a day, and recognized the importance of agriculture, poverty reduction, sustainable rural development, integrated land and water resource management, sustainable forest management, mountain development and conservation and sustainable use of agro-biodiversity. It underscored the importance of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its international plan of action and set a new target of 2015 for the restoration of depleted fish stocks. It also noted the critical role of the Collaborative Partnership on Forestry, under the chairmanship of FAO, in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests, and the need for the development of integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005 to meet future food production needs. The Plan emphasized the role of renewable energies in poverty reduction and in attaining the Millennium Development Goals on HIV/AIDS, women's empowerment and information for decision-making. FAO had taken a leading role at the World Summit in launching partnership initiatives

on sustainable mountain development, sustainable agriculture and rural development, and education for rural people. Those initiatives had demonstrated its commitment to the implementation of the relevant chapters of Agenda 21.

30. FAO welcomed the World Summit's call on GEF to designate land degradation as a focal area and to enhance the provision and mobilization of financial resources for the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

31. The Summit had underscored the critical role of biodiversity in sustainable development, poverty reduction and cultural integrity and had called for a significant reduction, by 2010, in the loss of biodiversity, inviting countries that had not yet done so to ratify the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. FAO would continue to provide assistance to Member States and to the Convention on Biological Diversity for joint activities relevant to food and agriculture.

32. FAO was carrying out a number of activities that had direct relevance to the issues of climate change mitigation and adaptation and to the Kyoto Protocol. It welcomed the call by world leaders at Johannesburg for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to play a critical role in eradicating poverty and creating an enabling environment for economic growth and development. FAO had played a major role in assisting the NEPAD secretariat in the sphere of agriculture and had helped prepare the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. It was looking forward to continuing its close cooperation with intergovernmental mechanisms, agencies of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to ensure an effective follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

33. **Ms. Freudenschuss-Reichl** (United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)) said that the general political consensus regarding the World Summit on Sustainable Development was that its outcomes should advance implementation. However, the outcome documents were normative in character, much like those of previous international conferences, which meant that implementation was difficult for the international community. The time had come, therefore, to consider what measures were needed to help the Commission on Sustainable Development to move out of a normative working mode into a mode that facilitated implementation.

34. Governments had the primary responsibility to ensure coherence among the outcomes of the various intergovernmental processes of recent years, including the Millennium Declaration, the Doha Conference, the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development. In that context, special attention would have to be given to the outcomes of the relevant ongoing General Assembly processes.

35. Consistency in implementation at the field level needed to be ensured through the utilization of existing country programme frameworks, such as the system of common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, poverty reduction strategy papers, the country assistance strategies of the World Bank, and the programming frameworks used by the European Commission and other bilateral donors. The work of the United Nations Development Group on follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development would point the way towards integrating Summit outcomes. However, programming frameworks and individual assistance programmes had a life span of several years and neither could nor should be redirected at frequent intervals.

36. The initiatives announced at the World Summit as "type 2 partnerships" could point a way towards a greater focus on implementation. Inter-agency cooperation around particular partnerships could be useful if it managed to raise the political profile of an issue and leverage additional funding for it. The recommendation by the World Summit for the elaboration of a ten-year programme to overcome unsustainable patterns of production and consumption could prove very useful, given the likelihood that inter-agency coordination would precede intergovernmental deliberations on the subject.

37. Consideration needed to be given to the possibility of revising the functioning of the task manager system so as to help the Commission on Sustainable Development to adopt working methods focused on implementation, while avoiding duplication with the machinery established to follow up on the Millennium Development Goals. All of those objectives could be reached in various ways, which were currently being discussed in an ad hoc working

group established by the High-Level Committee on Programmes. It would be very helpful if agencies and delegations could begin to study the various approaches to reforming the task manager system.

38. The UNIDO initiative on assessing needs and promoting action in the context of technology transfer had already attracted the interest of 17 countries. With that initiative UNIDO expected to strengthen the capacities of science and technology institutions in assessing national, sectoral and enterprise-level technology; promote technology acquisition proposals in target countries and identify partners for technology transfer; and promote technology needs assessment and related technology transfer requirements within the context of the common country assessment framework as components of productivity improvement and poverty reduction. UNIDO would be interested to know whether delegations felt that the initiative should be multiplied, so as to benefit as many countries as possible, and whether it made sense to promote system-wide cooperation on technology cooperation as a special strand of the follow-up to the World Summit.

39. With regard to energy for sustainable development, the target groups for the UNIDO initiative in that area would be those sectors of the population in developing countries that were without access to modern energy services and were either too poor or too isolated to attract private sector investments. In rural areas, UNIDO provided services in the design of technical cooperation projects, capacity development, technology transfer, productive uses of energy and development of appropriate financing mechanisms. It had signed an agreement with the E7 group of electrical companies and had become a partner in the European Union Energy Initiative for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development and the United Kingdom Rural Energy Enterprise Development initiative. UNIDO would be interested in knowing the Committee's views as to whether type 2 partnerships in the field of energy would promote a functional division of labour among the various actors through the allocation of additional funds and how a stronger intergovernmental consensus on energy for sustainable development could be promoted.

40. **Ms. Castano** (World Conservation Union (IUCN)) said that IUCN firmly believed that the multilateral system had to be used to advance the debate on the environment and sustainable development, and should seek to achieve commitments on those issues. IUCN had participated in the preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, providing briefing documents and organizing events on food security, biodiversity, governance, and development in Africa. It had organized an Environment Centre in Johannesburg, which coordinated contributions from the environmental community to the sustainable development agenda. The Centre had received more than 20,000 visitors, and had organized over 150 events, in which delegates, observers and United Nations staff had participated. One of the major contributions of IUCN was the launching of the Fifth World Parks Congress, which was an important step in the implementation of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit, since it addressed the relevance of protected areas within the broader economic, social and environmental agenda.

41. Action to reduce the loss of biological diversity should be recognized as a shared responsibility; the maintenance and restoration of ecosystems was crucial for the elimination of poverty and the promotion of sustainable livelihoods. In that regard, IUCN would continue to promote dialogue and to mobilize its assets and networks to advance the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and to implement the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. It would also actively promote the effective use of United Nations mechanisms, including the Commission on Sustainable Development.

42. With respect to the International Year of Freshwater, which would be celebrated in 2003, the ambitious targets for water and sanitation approved by the World Summit for Social Development and the strategies to promote equitable access and adequate supplies must be kept in mind. Support should also be provided to the existing processes, such as the World Water Forum, and partnerships such as the Dialogue on Water, Food and the Environment and the Water and Nature Initiative should be promoted.

43. IUCN had actively participated in the United Nations Forum on Forests, and welcomed the Forum's potential to implement the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests.

44. **Mr. Umaña** (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)) said that UNDP was fully committed to implementing, at all levels and in particular at the country level, the agreements reached

at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. UNDP had worked with over 135 countries in the preparation of reports for the Summit and planned to work with an even greater number of countries on the implementation of the agreements resulting there. It believed that each country needed to adapt the Johannesburg accords to its own situation, but that it was also desirable to pursue regional initiatives such as NEPAD and the Small Island Developing States initiative. UNDP had organized regional meetings whose high rate of participation and intense level of activity demonstrated the importance and urgency that everyone accorded to the issue of sustainable development. It had organized its implementation efforts around the priority themes mentioned by the Secretary-General — water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity — as well as such cross-cutting issues as climate change, governance, capacity-building and community action. Capacity-building was the key function of UNDP; over the past decade, thousands of successful local initiatives had been carried out, from which much could be learned, and which could be applied at other levels, within the context of South-South cooperation, and with the support and financial resources of development partners. UNDP looked forward to working with all delegations and countries in the implementation of the Summit agreements.

45. **Ms. Zorai** (Tunisia) said that her delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The level of participation in the Johannesburg Summit clearly demonstrated the gravity of the problems confronting mankind, including poverty, pollution, endemic, contagious and chronic diseases and the shortage of water. The Johannesburg Summit had provided a historic opportunity to reaffirm the principles of the Rio Summit and to revitalize the global commitment to sustainable development, poverty eradication, protection of natural resources, biodiversity and modification of production and consumption patterns. And yet, despite the adoption of a detailed and varied programme of action, the outcome of the World Summit had not been wholly satisfactory for the developing countries, especially with regard to the establishment of specific timeframes and the allocation of the necessary resources to carry out sustainable development programmes and meet commitments. Although it was clear that the main responsibility lay with the developing countries, they needed assistance from the developed countries, which bore the major responsibility for the deterioration of the environment. It was regrettable that those countries had not assumed new financial commitments, including debt cancellation and elimination of agricultural subsidies. They must honour their promises to increase assistance to developing countries that were carrying out adequate economic policies and structural reforms.

46. One of the few decisions of any scope adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development was the decision to establish the World Solidarity Fund. Her delegation was concerned that an effort was being made to reduce the level of resources to that fund by excluding contributions from Governments. Both rich and poor countries must undertake concrete commitments in accordance with the principle of common but different responsibilities if they wished to make progress in achieving economic and social development and environmental protection, which were the interdependent and complementary pillars of sustainable development.

47. Lastly, she reiterated her delegation's concern about the grave humanitarian and environmental situation that Israel's repressive measures had created in the occupied Palestinian territories, and urged the international community to take the necessary measures to put an end to that alarming situation, which constituted a threat to international peace and security.

48. **Mr. Abulhasan** (Kuwait) said that, since 1971, Kuwait had taken part in all United Nations conferences on the environment and sustainable development and accorded great importance to development policies. Consequently, it had established a body responsible for monitoring development, environmental protection and resource use, conducting research and implementing awareness-raising programmes. It had also set up a working group charged with preparing a plan of action for the third millennium, in which the main bodies concerned with the environment, inter alia, the Ministry of Oil, the University of Kuwait, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Planning, were taking part.

49. Kuwait's achievements in implementing Agenda 21 included, in the environmental sphere, the creation of a processing network for converting gases into electrical energy, as a result of which a significant amount of the hazardous waste present in the area had been eliminated; the creation of a national body to

combat desertification, which operated in accordance with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; and the opening of a hazardous petrochemical waste treatment centre, the first of its kind in the Middle East.

50. Kuwait had adopted measures to ensure sustainable development and combat air pollution.

51. With regard to health, his country was in the forefront of the Arab and Gulf States with regard to its care of disabled persons. Its legislation provided for education, medical care, housing, financial aid and a dignified life for those citizens.

52. **Mr. Lenagala** (Sri Lanka) said that his delegation wished to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. It expressed appreciation to the Government of South Africa for having hosted the Johannesburg Summit. Sri Lanka welcomed the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation with great optimism and hoped that concrete actions would soon be adopted at the local and international levels.

53. The concept of sustainable development was deeply rooted in Sri Lankan culture, traditions and values. It had been incorporated into the country's legislation in 1978 and, since then, environmental legislation had been enacted which had created an institutional and legal framework for the coordination of all environmental activities at the national level. Sri Lanka had ratified all the international conventions and protocols on climate change, biodiversity and desertification. In 2002, it had acceded to the Kyoto Protocol and it was intending to continue strengthening its legal framework in the area of the environment.

54. At the economic level, Sri Lanka was working towards an open, people-friendly economic system based on democratic and pluralistic institutions and able to protect the country's unique values and heritage and build on respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights. Several laws had been enacted and, in line with Sri Lanka's commitments to the international community, national action plans concerning biodiversity, climate change, coastal areas, the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities and forestry had been developed. In accordance with the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources was in the process of preparing a national strategy for the implementation of the clean development mechanism. Legal and institutional measures had been taken to implement the Montreal Protocol and regulations had been enforced to control the import and use of ozone depleting substances. In accordance with the Basel Convention, hazardous waste regulations had been published in the Official Gazette and a new law on biodiversity was being developed in order to implement the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity concerning access and benefit sharing.

55. The entire international community must ensure that the necessary measures were adopted to follow up the Johannesburg Summit. The United Nations could play a central role in monitoring progress. Agenda 21 was closely linked to the Millennium Development Goals, the monitoring of which was the responsibility of the United Nations, and therefore a similar monitoring mechanism could be used to ensure its implementation. His delegation considered that the Commission on Sustainable Development should be strengthened and in that respect, noted the importance of international assistance for the developing countries. The international community had a common responsibility to ensure that the Plan of Implementation produced tangible results.

56. In conclusion, he recalled that the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources of Sri Lanka, in his capacity as leader of the Sri Lankan delegation to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, had underlined in his statement that there could be no rivalries in the struggle to save the environment. Friendship alone would help humanity succeed in its endeavours, since neither the most powerful nor the most humble could survive alone.

57. **The Chairman** announced that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 87 (a).

Agenda item 85: Sectoral policy questions

(b) Business and development (A/57/591)

58. **Mr. Szeremeta** (Chief, Public Policy Analysis and Development Branch, Division for Public Economics and Public Administration), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on Business and Development (A/57/591), said that the Millennium Declaration should be considered as an agreement by the international community to embark on a grandiose world-making exercise. The goal of that effort was

human development, which could only occur in the context of peace, prosperity and justice, with globalization benefiting all. That required democratic and participatory governance founded on the values of freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature and shared responsibility.

59. The business sector must become a willing and engaged partner in that world-making effort. Given the role of markets in the international community and the vast human, financial and large resources controlled by business, any world-making effort must take into account the ways in which those resources were used and how markets operated. Productivity, the efficiency with which business used resources and its flexibility, meant that its engagement in the world-making effort could only benefit that effort.

60. Implementation frameworks were needed to convert the ideas contained in General Assembly resolution 54/204 into reality. Since 1999, the issue of business and development had been considered at numerous global forums, particularly at the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit for Sustainable Development.

61. Many developing countries lacked the capacity to regulate business growth and socially responsible behaviour and there were few examples of self-regulation by businesses or positive responses to expectations for changes in their behaviour. Strengthening those capacities was therefore an important and urgent task. In addition, the role of civil society had not been defined sufficiently clearly in the debate about business and development, yet it could be said that a society experienced the kind of business behaviour which it deserved: business was guided by social response to its behaviour, by the signals and information it received from the community in which it operated. It was futile to expect positive changes in business behaviours in a society which valued individual wealth, regardless of the way in which that wealth had been obtained. Finally, to the extent that the whole issue related to governance, it would be useful to look carefully at the state of democracy all over the world.

62. The report of the Secretary-General on Business and Development (A/57/591) suggested that the General Assembly continue to consider issues related to business and development with the goal of deepening understanding of that issue. Member States should indicate to the Secretariat which aspects of the business and development framework they wished to consider in the future.

63. **Mr. Avanthay** (Switzerland) said that his Government recognized that businesses had a responsibility to enhance the social and environmental regulation of economic affairs, so as to contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, including poverty reduction. However, transnationals and large, as well as small and medium enterprises still had a long way to go towards broadly accepting principles of corporate social responsibility.

64. The assumption that maximum competition was leading to maximum efficiency was questionable. Liberalization without corporate social responsibility did not appear to be leading to an efficient allocation of global resources. In order to be socially responsive, a competitive environment must be effectively regulated by a public sector which was insulated from the corporations it had to supervise. His Government had actively promoted business development in recent years, notably in collaboration with UNIDO and ILO, and was committed to supporting mechanisms for the strengthening of corporate governance, including the United Nations Global Compact, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) principles of corporate governance and the World Bank Global Corporate Governance Forum. Those bodies played a complementary role in disseminating best practices by various means. In addition, with a view to encouraging better corporate governance in the financial sector, his Government was also supporting the Financial Sector Reform and Strengthening Initiative, a multi-donor initiative providing technical assistance to low and middle income countries for capacity-building and policy development. All those mechanisms and initiatives contributed to strengthening the awareness of all stakeholders of the linkages between corporate governance and the Millennium Development Goals.

65. The Global Compact constituted an excellent initial step to facilitate bridge-building and the gradual adoption of principles and standards by enterprises in accordance with their specific situations and circumstances. It could also support Governments' efforts to encourage businesses to adopt the principles of the Compact and facilitate dialogue between the private sector and civil society. In that regard, with

support from the Global Compact, his Government had recently organized in Geneva a forum aimed at encouraging the Swiss private sector to better implement principles of corporate social responsibility.

66. Governments should also ensure that corporate social responsibility did not simply become a new attempt on the part of the industrialized countries to limit the international competitiveness of developing country enterprises in a market-driven economy. His Government believed that the Global Compact should be further developed and strengthened.

67. As for the development of small and medium enterprises, there was a growing recognition of the essential role they could play in the sustainable development process, not only by generating employment and income but also by pursuing fair business practices and adopting social and environmental standards. Good corporate governance was also crucial for small and medium enterprises. In the short term, they must enhance their competitiveness and integration in their national economies; however, their long-term sustainability and, for the more dynamic ones, their integration into the regional and global economies, would only be possible if they at the same time applied corporate social responsibility principles.

68. At the current stage it was essential to support rural and suburban enterprises, in particular those linked to the agricultural sector. His Government was willing to support as appropriate small and medium enterprises which had the potential to create links with large enterprises and transnational companies, because they were likely to benefit from the trickle down of best practices in the area of social and environmental standards, as well as spillovers in technology transfer and capacity-building.

69. Governments should create an environment which enabled businesses, including small and medium enterprises, to conduct their activities in a sustainable and socially responsible way. Good governance would remain a key element, together with the need for sound macro and microeconomic policies and efficient regulatory frameworks, including transparency in public procurement and appropriate competition rules.

70. **Mr. Ragab** (Egypt) said that he believed the topic of business and development to be of the highest importance. The Secretary-General's report on the issue indicated that Governments should provide clarity and stability about the expected role of business within the development strategy of the respective countries, and provide a regulatory framework so as to promote the national economic, social and environmental objectives.

71. Governments had to face ever greater responsibilities in their activities to promote development, and in the establishment of transparency and accountability standards, as well as laws that would allow the private sector to fulfil its role and contribute to the development of society. Success would depend above all upon the way in which the private sector performed its business activities, especially as one of the strengths of the private sector was its ability, within its overall profit-oriented structure, to adjust promptly and efficiently to changing conditions. Nevertheless, that strength could conceal certain weaknesses, such as those brought on by difficult and changing circumstances in the international economy. Such circumstances directly affected national economic programmes, and accentuated the weakness and the deficiencies in national mechanisms. Accordingly, it had become very difficult, if not impossible, to respond to the demand of States and Governments that strict oversight standards for working methods in different sectors should be reinforced and institutionalized. At a time when economies and markets were opening up and Governments were being asked to show flexibility and give free rein to market forces, those same Governments were also being asked not only to protect practices in the business sector, but to assume responsibility for them as well.

72. The disparity between the commitments and the responsibilities of development would have a negative impact on the speed with which Governments and public institutions responded when the time came for development needs to be funded. When the business sector was called upon to fulfil its commitments, its duty to draw up standards in coordination with State policies would be impossible to ignore, especially in matters relating to the hiring and training of workers, to environmental protection and to respect for agreed international standards. In that connection, Joseph Stieglitz had reaffirmed before the Committee the dual function performed by the public and private sectors, and the need for the State to play a role in the development and oversight of their policies. The private sector also had to play a part in the realization

of development goals and the elimination of corruption. Egypt was in full agreement with the Secretary-General when he stated in his report that companies must behave like good citizens, volunteering to set up systems of accountability and to participate as reliable and trustworthy partners in development activities.

73. **Ms. Lewis** (International Labour Organization (ILO)) said that four of the nine principles that formed the basis of the Global Compact were taken from the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, namely, the obligation of businesses to uphold freedom of association and the right of collective bargaining, to ensure the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour, to work towards the effective abolition of child labour and to eliminate discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

74. ILO was a partnership between business and society. It was a tripartite organization in which all decisions were taken by consensus among Governments, employers and workers. The important body of international labour standards adopted over the years covered not only the core values reflected in the Global Compact, but also many other issues relative to the workplace, such as employment policy and promotion, vocational training, occupational safety and health, labour administration and industrial relations.

75. The Global Compact followed a dialogue model very similar to that of ILO, so it was logical that the main constituents of ILO, the International Organization of Employers and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, should also actively support the Compact. The role of ILO was to help companies to incorporate the four labour principles into their management practices. ILO was therefore involved in the three main areas of activity of the Global Compact. In the case of the Global Compact Learning Forum, ILO analysed case studies submitted by companies in order to identify and disseminate best practices and lessons learned, so that companies might learn from each others' experiences and make changes internally. Those studies were posted on the websites of ILO and the Global Compact, and would be included in training materials aimed at managers at all levels, so that managers would incorporate the Global Compact principles in their management systems. ILO was also active in the Global Compact Policy Dialogues, in particular the Dialogue on the role of businesses in conflict zones. ILO had drawn on its expertise to promote employment-intensive investment, small-business creation and technical training in countries such as Cambodia and Mozambique. Themes for other Dialogues were sustainable development, with special attention to its social aspects, and diversity in the workplace. Finally, ILO actively supported the dissemination of the Global Compact at the national level.

76. ILO had been concerned for some time with the issue of corporate social responsibility. In 1977 it had adopted the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy, which, currently more relevant than ever, was an ideal complement to the Global Compact. It was worth noting that the Declaration addressed a wider audience than did the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. More than a code of conduct, the Declaration was a development tool containing specific guidance to assist companies in applying the principles of ILO in general, and in establishing partnerships around such principles. ILO was currently involved in a number of research and information activities relating to corporate responsibility. The most important of those activities was the Business and Social Initiatives database, hitherto the most comprehensive database of projects on supply-chain management and the use of international standards to improve human resources management and productivity.

77. ILO was also involved in a number of technical cooperation activities at the field level, including a project in Cambodia to improve working conditions in the textile and apparel sector through monitoring, legislation, and promotion of awareness of Cambodian labour law and core ILO standards. ILO also supported private sector initiatives in West Africa to eliminate abusive child-labour practices and forced labour in cocoa farming through its International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour.

78. *Mr. Kara (Czech Republic) took the Chair.*

Agenda item 87: Environment and sustainable development (*continued*)

(c) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind (A/57/359)

79. **Ms. Black** (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change had established the issue of climate change was a common concern of humankind. It was a key factor in the realization of the goal of sustainable development in

developing countries because of its links to economic, social and environmental problems such as poverty, land degradation, access to food and water, and human health.

80. Ten years after the signing of the Convention, the challenge still remained to fulfil the goals set out in the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol of stabilizing concentrations of greenhouse gases and reducing developed countries' emissions to 5 per cent below their 1990 levels, in 2008 and 2012, respectively. Concentrations of carbon dioxide from developed countries had actually increased, so much so that developing countries were continuing to suffer most from the adverse effects of climate change, in particular the economic and social consequences. The Group of 77 and China were firmly opposed to the consideration of new commitments for developing countries at the Conference of the Parties, and reiterated the importance of promoting adaptation measures and increasing financial and technical assistance to developing countries.

81. The Marrakesh Accords recognized, inter alia, that developing countries were the most vulnerable to climate change, and highlighted the need for capacity-building, promoting technical innovation in key sectors, such as energy and cooperation, and establishing synergies with other agreements, including those on biodiversity and desertification. The Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development had been recently approved in New Delhi. It reiterated the call to fulfil all common but differentiated, responsibilities and commitments undertaken under the Convention and its Protocol.

82. The Group of 77 and China reiterated the appeal made by the Conference of the Parties to GEF that the three trust funds established to assist developing countries, namely the Special Climate Change Fund, the Special Fund for the Least Developed Countries and the Adaptation Fund, should be strengthened and made fully operational. Those funds had been created to support programmes and measures relating to adaptation, technology transfer and energy management, so as to assist in diversifying economies that were highly dependent on income generated by the production, processing and export of fossil fuels, and to finance the adaptation measures necessary to deal with disasters related to climate change.

83. Finally, her delegation requested the Secretary-General to ensure the provision of secretariat services to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention under the regular budget.

84. **Mr. Gebert** (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the associated Central and Eastern European countries (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) and the associated countries (Cyprus and Malta), as well as the European Free Trade Association country of the European Economic Area, Iceland, reiterated the appeal contained in the Delhi Ministerial Declaration approved by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, whereby the nearly 100 countries that had ratified the Kyoto Protocol urged those that had not already done so to ratify it. The Kyoto Protocol was the only existing effective multilateral instrument for combating climate change. It was to be hoped that it would enter into force in the near future. However, in spite of the progress made by the European Union and other countries, it was well known that it would not be possible either to reverse the trend of increasing global emissions or to stabilize the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gasses at levels that would prevent climate change. The Kyoto Protocol was, no doubt, important, but it was only the first step on the way to achieving the common goal.

85. Consequently, the European Union continued to call upon all countries to engage in a dialogue which, after the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, would serve to launch a process aimed at significantly reducing global emissions while broadening and enhancing participation in long-term global cooperation. That process must take into consideration the alarming findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its third assessment report. He reaffirmed the European Union's conviction that industrial countries had to take the lead in reducing global greenhouse-gas emissions, current levels of which were unsustainable. Furthermore, the European Union was of the opinion that the mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol would stimulate innovation and that participating countries stood to gain, including economically, by increased efficiency and long-term cost savings achieved through technological development.

86. Bearing in mind that the effects of climate change would be felt more severely in developing countries, special attention must be paid to the needs of such countries, particularly the least developed countries and small island developing States, with regard to vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. The Convention on Climate Change formed the basis for dialogue for further action, after 2012, on both mitigation and adaptation.

87. The global nature of climate change called for the widest possible cooperation by all countries, as well as their participation in an effective and international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and their respective capabilities. The General Assembly must continue to assume its responsibility to address that serious challenge to mankind. For its part, the European Union was strongly in favour of maintaining the current practice of paying the conference-servicing expenses of the Convention on Climate Change from the regular budget of the United Nations, as a sign of the strong institutional linkage between the Organization and the secretariat of the Convention. The next World Conference would serve as an opportunity to advance the issues addressed in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, maintaining momentum through a multilateral dialogue.

88. **Mr. Slade** (Samoa), speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, expressed support for the statement delivered by the representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The issue of climate change would be the most crucial determinant of sustainable development in small island developing States. Those States might develop effective sustainable development policies and ensure political, economic and social progress, but they faced the real risk that their efforts might be undermined because of climate change.

89. As front-line States, they recognized their own responsibilities. Even though their emissions were minuscule by world standards, many of them were taking action to reduce emissions far beyond their international commitments. They could not accept the validity of the assertion that developing countries must take those steps before major emitters engaged in previously agreed emissions reduction efforts.

90. The Alliance welcomed the outcomes of the Eighth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and particularly welcomed the emphasis on adaptation issues. However, it believed that the issue of adaptation would require further consideration and that the small island developing States needed to be assisted with technology, information and capacity training. Their communities needed access to adequate and predictable sources of financial assistance so that they could effectively undertake adaptation activities. However, adaptation alone would not fix the worsening global climate system, and serious mitigation efforts were needed.

91. The Kyoto Protocol was the right way forward, though its measures were far from adequate when measured by science. The Protocol was only a first effort and it was well known that the political state of international negotiations had prevented more ambitious efforts so far. All Member States should be conscious of a common responsibility towards the planet and future generations, and should ensure that the concentration of greenhouse gases did not exceed dangerous levels. However, global emissions were still rising and all island communities were most concerned that the world was moving down a dangerous path. The Alliance believed that it was necessary to start planning for its common future and was concerned that the parties to the Convention on Climate Change continued to fail to discuss the adequacy of the annex I commitments under article 4, paragraphs 2 (a) and 2 (b). That failure was a breach of the Convention. When the Conference of the Parties came to deal with those provisions, it would inevitably have to deal with the contention for contributions from all parties to the global effort. The Alliance shared the concerns of many developing countries regarding any attempt to transmit the primary responsibility for climate change mitigation efforts to developing countries. Clearly, industrialized countries had that responsibility.

92. One of the most important issues discussed in New Delhi concerned the need for effective risk management in the context of natural disasters, including the role of insurance. That was particularly important for countries which were highly vulnerable and least able to cope, such as Samoa. His delegation hoped that the necessary funding for the scheduled seminar would be made available and that participation would be significant. Natural disasters caused by

climate change were frequent throughout the world and those that suffered most and needed the most urgent assistance were the smallest and poorest States, among them small island States.

93. With regard to the financial links between the secretariat of the Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations, his delegation believed it was not the time to alter established arrangements, and supported the point made by Denmark to that effect.

94. Climate change would be a major concern for the Alliance as it prepared for the international meeting to review the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action. It looked forward to reporting to the General Assembly and to the Second Committee on the progress of its discussions, in particular with regard to possible best practices in adaptation assessment, planning and implementation.

95. **Mr. Nobs** (Switzerland) said that it was necessary to act swiftly and with determination to tackle the serious problem of climate change. His delegation was satisfied with the progress made at the Eighth Conference of the Parties in setting the stage for the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol. It acknowledged that developed countries had to take the lead in combating climate change. Switzerland was about to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. It was one of the few States that had stabilized their greenhouse gas emissions at 1990 levels, and it had enacted national legislation to further cut emissions. Switzerland proposed to contribute to the new funds under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol and to the replenishment of GEF. There was a great need for capacity building and the transfer of modern technology to support developing countries in their efforts to implement the Convention and its Protocol.

96. Combating climate change was a long-term task requiring a continuous commitment that took into account economic growth, environmental protection and social development. It was therefore a priority to address vulnerability assessment, adaptation and climate impact management in developing countries. All States should ratify the Kyoto Protocol. Both States included and those not included in annex I should cooperate through new initiatives to enhance capacity building and technology transfer, and to integrate a climate change dimension in sectoral policies in the framework of sustainable development by international and intergovernmental agencies and, where appropriate, in international investment. It was necessary for all States to engage in a dialogue to establish a road map relating to the issue of climate change that went beyond the Protocol's first commitment period, ending in 2012. It was also necessary to take into account possible synergies between the Convention and other multilateral agreements on the environment.

97. His delegation agreed with the Group of 77 and China, the European Union and the Alliance of Small Island States that the secretariat services for the meetings of the Conference of the Parties should be maintained within the regular budget of the United Nations.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.